

MADISON COUNTY BARN DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Common Identity of Barn: Josiah Henry Price barn

Address of Barn: up from #1616 NC Highway 63, south side
1616 NC 63, Hot Springs, NC 28743

GPS Location: N35-44.327 / W82-50.928

Current Owner: Patsy Plemmons / Phone: 828-622-7234

Elevation: 2689'

Historic Owner(s): Josiah Price

Township: Spring Creek

Current Use: storage

Vicinity: Friezeland Creek on NC 63 1.6 miles east of Trust

Historic Use: burley tobacco, storage

Approx. date/decade built: 1935 +/-

Permission to visit property by: Owner

Historical Background

Setting and/or Surrounding Land Use: The Josiah Henry Price farm is located 1.6 miles east of the junction of NC Highway 63 and NC Highway 209 where Friezeland Creek joins Spring Creek, known as the Trust community and an important historic location for commerce and travel. This valley is a relatively high elevation valley of typical mountain farms with fewer large bottomland areas.

Historic Information: This is one of Spring Creek's earliest barns built exclusively for the air curing of burley tobacco. The owner's mother recalls watching the family harvest tobacco for this barn in the 1930's when she was approximately 5 years old. One crop of tobacco was grown high on the mountain side, across the road from the barn, now covered in forest. Josiah Price and son David, builders of the barn, installed an ingenious cable zip line to carry the harvested tobacco from the opposite mountain side, down to the barn, to be hung for air curing. This is a very large burley tobacco barn, measuring sixty feet long, thirty-one feet wide, and twenty-eight feet high. Sawn posts of 4 x 4 - inch hemlock sit on a large hand-hewn sill, a round locust sill, on dry-laid rock piers. The rear (south) foundation wall is a more recent replacement concrete block foundation wall. Later burley barn construction used round poles instead of sawn posts. The Price farm includes many older farmstead buildings, including a late 19th century livestock barn with log crib stalls, a rare surviving type in the Spring Creek township.

Outbuildings: none in the immediate vicinity

Original Barn Characteristics

Integrity:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Condition:

- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruin

Addtnl Info.:

Function of original barn:

- general purpose
- livestock/hay
- flue-cured tobacco

- burley tobacco
- bull face tobacco
- dairy
- other

Addtnl Info.: equipment storage

Type of Construction of original barn:

- Post and Beam
- timber frame
- mortise and tenon
- sawn lumber

Original siding materials:

- milled boards
- lattice
- exposed logs
- board and batten
- metal
- shingles
- other

Addtl Info.: mixture of wood species

Roof pitch or slope of original roof: 12/5.5 +/-

Roof type of original barn:

- gable
- broken gable
- gambrel
- shed
- monitor
- cupola

Roof framing of original barn:

- round pole rafters
- milled rafters
- gambrel shallow trusses
- gambrel with post & beam supprt
- round purlins

Addtl Info.: 2x4 rafters; nailing boards for roof sheathing were solid, not spaced like typical lath sheathing, which may indicate the original roof covering was asphalt tar paper.

Flooring of original barn:

- dirt floor
- wood flooring

- hewn timbers – one interior sill
- notched logs
- stud frame

Addtl Info: represents a significant new barn form introduced to exclusively air cure burley tobacco

including oak, chestnut, other common siding species

Orientation of siding:

- angled on diagonal
- vertical
- horizontal

Addtl Info.: early example of diagonal sided burley barn, a significant feature of Madison County barns, especially in the Spring Creek Township

Roofing materials of original barn:

- split wood shingles
- 3-V metal
- 3-U metal
- 5-V metal
- stamped metal shingle
- tar paper
- unknown
- other

Addtl Info.: 3-V was an early type of available metal roofing

Foundation of Original Barn:

- Dry laid stone
- wood sills on rock piers
- mortared stone
- concrete
- concrete block
- columns/wood piers
- posts on concrete footings

Addtl Info.: poured concrete foundation on side toward creek, likely a replacement foundation to replace deteriorated wood sill.

- concrete slab

Addtl Info.:

Species of wood used in original barn:

- chestnut
- other, list known species

Addtl Info.: hemlock, pine, oak

Hinges:

- leather
- wooden
- wrought iron
- commercial metal
- rubber
- other

Add. Info.:

Fasteners:

- wire nails
- cut nails
- wrought spikes
- wood pegs
- other

Addtl Info.:

Tobacco tier poles vertical spacing:

- +/- 2 feet
- +/- 3 feet
- +/- 4 feet
- other, list

Addtl Info.:

Additional traditional features, list:

This barn with its diagonal siding is an early example of the use of diagonal siding, which became iconic in this township.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS - characteristics

Has the original barn been altered or added to? No evidence of additions

Date Photos Taken: Sept. 4, 2014

Submitted for Appalachian Barn Alliance By:

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